

Banque Commerciale pour l' Europe du Nord

The largest Soviet owned commercial bank ~~located~~ in the west is the Banque Commerciale pour l' Europe du Nord in Paris. The USSR controls 99.7 percent of the authorized shares of stock of this institution, and has operated it within the limits of French financial regulations as a tool for financing the economic relations of the Sino-Soviet Bloc with the West. The Banque du Nord has been the agent for effecting sales of Soviet gold in London and on the continent. The proceeds from the gold sales in the form of convertible currencies are held by the Banque du Nord for the account of Gosbank, the Soviet State Bank. The bank probably is the means through which Soviet credits of convertible currency are transferred to the Satellites. In order to serve its customers the Banque du Nord maintains a widespread system of correspondent relationships with leading commercial banks in Western Europe and also in this country. The prime role of the Bank lies in its financing of the trade, exports and imports, of Bloc countries with the West. It has granted commercial credit directly to the European Satellites and recently has participated in the reinsurance of Satellite commercial debts to Western exporters. Among Bloc countries the main customers of the bank, in addition to the USSR, are Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, although it also does business with the other countries of Eastern Europe and the Communist Far East.

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(before full para. on p.10)

Soviet capabilities to export petroleum and metals - aluminum, tin, zinc, and ferro-alloys - is increasing. Over the next ten years, the USSR may well become a major supplier of such industrial necessities to Western Europe.

This seems particularly likely when Khrushchev's 1972 commodity goals are examined.

Take, for example, petroleum. By 1972, the Soviets plan to produce as much crude oil as we in the United States do today. Even allowing for substantial increases in domestic consumption, they could export about 2 million barrels a day. Today, all of Western Europe consumes about 3 million barrels a day.

A start has already been made on the pipeline needed to bring the crude oil from the Ural-Volga basin to the Baltic.